

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07 IO-11 OC-05

CCO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 A-01 /079 W

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O 041515Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9881

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0706

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: GT

SUBJ: EARTHQUAKE REPORT: INITIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

REF: GUATEMALA 705

1. ONE LOCAL RADIO REPORT INDICATES 43 PEOPLE DEAD WHILE CBS NEW YORK SAYS THEY HAVE REPORTS OF 30 TO 300 DEAD. NO ESTIMATE AVAILABLE YET FROM GOG.

2. CBS NEWS ALSO SAID EARTHQUAKE REGISTERED 7.5 ON RICHTER SCALE AND WAS CENTERED 125 MILES NORTHEAST OF GUATEMALA CITY. THAT WOULD PLACE EPICENTER IN RIO DULCE AREA, ONLY ABOUT 50-60 MILES FROM PUERTO BARRIOS.

3. FAST SURVEY OF PART OF GUATEMALA CITY INDICATES THAT DAMAGE IS WIDELY VARIABLE WITH RUBBLE BLOCKING SOME STREETS. REPORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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INDICATE THAT WHILE ZONES FIVE AND SIX, POORER AREAS OF THE

CITY, WERE BADLY DAMAGED, DAMAGE IN SOME OF THE EXPENSIVE RESIDENTIAL ZONES WAS LIGHT. SOME BUILDINGS IN ZONE 10 RESIDENTIAL AREA CRACKED AND SUFFERED LIGHT TO HEAVY FALLING PLASTER. ZONE 1, THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AREA WITH MOST GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS SUFFERED LIGHT DAMAGE. THE EXTERIOR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE APPEARED UNDAMAGED AND THE CATHEDRAL SUFFERED ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE.

4. THE MAJOR ELEVATED ROADWAY THROUGH THE CITY HAS BUCKLED ASPHALT AND CRACKED SUPPORTS. ANOTHER MAJOR ARTERY HAS BEEN PARTIALLY CLOSED BY LANDSLIDES.

5. NO IMPORTANT BUILDING HAS COLLAPSED ALTHOUGH SOME, INCLUDING POSSIBLY THE CONQUISTADOR SHERATON HOTEL, MAY NOT BE HABITABLE TEMPORARILY. THE IGA HAS SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE.

6. INITIAL REPORTS RECEIVED BY GOG FROM PUERTO BARRIOS INDICATE HEAVY DAMAGE WITH SOME DOCKS COLLAPSED.

7. POPULATION APPEARS CALM WITH NO SIGNS OF LOOTING. ARMY PATROLLING IN SOME AREAS.

8. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS ASKED POPULACE NOT TO GO TO WORK AND TO STAY NEAR HOMES, BUT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE IF HOMES HAVE SUFFERED STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

ANDREWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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